

105TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4873

To amend the Public Health Service Act to establish an Office of Autoimmune Diseases at the National Institutes of Health, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 20, 1998

Mr. WAXMAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

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## A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to establish an Office of Autoimmune Diseases at the National Institutes of Health, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “NIH Office of Auto-  
5       immune Diseases Act of 1998”.

6       **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE OF AUTOIMMUNE DIS-**  
7       **EASES AT NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH.**

8       Title IV of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.  
9       281 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 404E  
10      the following section:

1 “AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES

2 “SEC. 404F. (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is estab-  
3 lished within the Office of the Director of NIH an office  
4 to be known as the Office of Autoimmune Diseases (in  
5 this section referred to as the ‘Office’), which shall be  
6 headed by a Director appointed by the Director of NIH.

7 “(b) DUTIES.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office  
9 shall carry out the following:

10 “(A) The Director shall recommend an  
11 agenda for conducting and supporting research  
12 on autoimmune diseases through the national  
13 research institutes. The agenda shall provide  
14 for a broad range of research relating to bio-  
15 medical, psychosocial, and rehabilitative issues,  
16 including studies of the disproportionate impact  
17 of such diseases on women.

18 “(B) The Director shall with respect to  
19 autoimmune diseases promote coordination and  
20 cooperation among the national research insti-  
21 tutes and entities whose research is supported  
22 by such institutes.

23 “(C) The Director shall promote the suffi-  
24 cient allocation of the resources of the National

1 Institutes of Health for conducting and sup-  
2 porting research on autoimmune diseases.

3 “(D) The Director shall biennially prepare  
4 a report that describes the projects of research  
5 on autoimmune diseases being conducted or  
6 supported through the national research insti-  
7 tutes, and that identifies particular projects or  
8 types of projects that should in the future be  
9 conducted or supported by the national research  
10 institutes or other entities in the field of re-  
11 search on autoimmune diseases.

12 “(2) PRINCIPAL ADVISOR REGARDING AUTO-  
13 IMMUNE DISEASES.—With respect to autoimmune  
14 diseases, the Director of the Office shall serve as the  
15 principal advisor to the Secretary, the Assistant Sec-  
16 retary for Health, and the Director of NIH, and  
17 shall provide advice to the Director of the Centers  
18 for Disease Control and Prevention and the Com-  
19 missioner of Food and Drugs.

20 “(c) COORDINATING COMMITTEE.—The Director of  
21 NIH shall ensure that there is in operation a committee  
22 to coordinate the activities of the National Institutes of  
23 Health with respect to autoimmune diseases, that the com-  
24 mittee is designated as the Autoimmune Diseases Coordi-  
25 nating Committee, and that, to the extent possible, such

1 Coordinating Committee includes liaison members from  
2 other Federal health agencies, including the Centers for  
3 Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug  
4 Administration.

5 “(d) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the  
6 term ‘autoimmune diseases’ includes rheumatoid arthritis,  
7 systemic lupus erthematosus, multiple sclerosis, juvenile-  
8 onset diabetes, Sjögren’s syndrome, scleroderma, and  
9 other diseases or disorders as determined by the Sec-  
10 retary.

11 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the  
12 purpose of carrying out this section, there are authorized  
13 to be appropriated \$750,000 for fiscal year 1999, and  
14 such sums as may be necessary for each subsequent fiscal  
15 year.”.

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